

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4379
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5203

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR RO PO SGEN
SUBJ: MAGDA LUPECU: LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

1. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR HAS INFORMED CHARGE IN STRICT CONFIDENCE OF MAJOR EFFORT ON PART OF GOR TO GAIN POSSESSION OF ALLEGED FORTUNE LEFT BY EX-KING CAROL'S MISTRESS/WIFE ELENA "MAGDA" LUPESCU (OF 'LIFE UNDER A KING IS A WONDERFUL THING' FAME) WHO DIED IN PORTUGAL LAST WEEK.

2. ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR MACHADO HE WAS SUMMONED TO SEE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER PACOSTE ON SHORT NOTICE LAST WEEK AND INFORMED GOR ACCORDS HIGHEST PRIORITY TO RETURN TO THE ROMANIAN STATE OF FUNDS, JEWELS, PAINTINGS ETC. WHICH CAROL TOOK WITH HIM UPON ABDICATION AND EXILE IN 1940. PACOSTE SAID MAGDA WAS "BORN A ROMANIAN, MARRIED A ROMANIAN, AND DIED A ROMANIAN." ERGO EVERYTHING SHE OWNED (VIA CAROL) WAS ROMANIAN AND BELONGS TO THE STATE.

3. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR PROTESTED THAT LUPESCU'S WILL WAS NOW UNDER ADJUDICATION BY PORTUGUESE COURTS AND THAT THERE ARE NO LOGAL GROUNDS FOR THE GOP TO INTERCEDE IN THESE PROCEEDINGS, ALLEGEDLY PACOSTE AIRILY DISMISSED THIS PROBLEM AS A MERE FORMALITY. ROMANIA WANTS THE TREASURES BACK AND EXPECTS THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO MEET THIS REQUEST
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WITHOUT SUBTERFUGE TO MERE LEGALITIES.

4. AMBASSADOR MACHADO IS LIVID OVER PACOSTE'S HIGHHANDED TREATMENT OF HIM. HE SAYS HE HAS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO LISBON THAT ROMANIANS BE TOLD IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS TO SHOVE IT. ONE AMUSING SIDE LIGHT TO AFFAIR IS THAT ALLEGEDLY ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR ILIESCU DROVE OUT TO LUPESCU'S

VILLA ALMOST DAILY DURING FINAL WEEKS OF HER LIFE IN ORDER
TO PERSUADE HER TO CHANGE HER WILL (PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR
BELIEVES BULK OF ESTATE HAS BEEN LEFT TO HER LONG-TIME
FRIEND AND COMPANION MADAME URDAREANU (CAROL'S COURT CHAMBER-
LIN). APPARENTLY ILIESCU NEVER GOT THROUGH THE DHMR.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER LIGHT LISBON MIGHT
BE ABLE TO SHED ON THIS SPLENDID SUMMER FRIVOLITY. NEEDLESS-
TO SAY, THERE IS NOT A WORD OF THIS--OR OF MAGDA'S DEMISE--
IN THE LOCAL PRESS, ALTHOUGH SOME INTERESTED ROMANIANS
CLAIM TO HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT DEATH ALMOST IMMEDIATELY VIA
EXILE CHANNELS.
VIETS

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